

Minutes
Historic District Commission Meeting
Monday July 18, 2016
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Road
7:00 pm

Present: Chair William Penn, Vice Chair Martha Ball, W. Douglas Gilpin Jr., Claire McQueeney, Dennis Riordan, and Mark Vaillancourt. Kate Campanale, Administrative Assistant was present for recording of the minutes.

Absent: Mike Ballard

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

B. Matters from the Public not on the Agenda: None heard

C. Approval of June 20, 2016 Minutes: Mr. Gilpin made a motion, seconded by Ms. McQueeney to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

6 ayes (Penn, Ball, Gilpin, McQueeney, Riordan, Vaillancourt)
1 Absent (Ballard)

0 Nays

D. Signs:

1. Traz Capital Partners II LLC. Plat 6, Lot 99. Application by BI Conservancy to use an A-Frame sign outside their office/education center on Weldon's Way.

Michael Chapman presented the application on behalf of the BI Conservancy. Ms. Ball recused herself. The proposed sign is a small metal A-frame sign measuring 2.2 square feet that will be located in the garden outside of the office. Mr. Gilpin suggested to Michael that he could also use an "Open" flag as well to try and attract pedestrian foot traffic.

Mr. Gilpin made a motion, seconded by Ms. McQueeney to approve the application for an A-Frame sign located at Plat 6, Lot 99 for the Block Island Conservancy.

The following is based on the findings of fact:

- This approval is for an A-Frame sign for Block Island Conservancy.
- The proposed sign meets the requirements under Section 504 (C) (2d) of the Zoning Ordinance for portable A-Frame signs.
- The applicant submitted photographs of the building site where the proposed sign will be located.
- The proposed A-frame sign will not block nor impede pedestrian travel, and must be removed when the business is closed.

5 ayes (Penn, Gilpin, McQueeney, Riordan, Vaillancourt)
1 Absent (Ballard)

0 Nays
1 Recusal (Ball)

2. High Street Realty. Plat 7, Lot 73-2. Application to install updated signage on existing post at the Bellevue House.

Cariona Corcoran presented on behalf of the Bellevue House. She is proposing to apply a new vinyl sticker to an existing sign that will have her business logos on the sign. The small hanging signs that are currently hanging below the main sign would be removed. Ms. McQueeny noted that the small signs were never approved by the Historic District Commission. The total square footage of the proposed sign is 9.74 square feet with a height of 5 feet.

Ms. Ball made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vaillancourt to approve the new vinyl overlay, to be applied to existing sign structure.

The following is based on the findings of fact:

- The property is in Historic District.
- The total area of the proposed signs are less than the maximum allowable number of square feet permitted, as required under Section 504 (C)(2) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- The applicant submitted a drawing showing the location of the proposed signs.

6 ayes (Penn, Ball, Gilpin, McQueeny, Riordan, Vaillancourt)
1 Absent (Ballard)

0 Nays

E. Matters for Discussion

1. Illegal Signage within Historic District:

Kate Campanale has composed a list of possible violations within the Historic District of illegal signage that has been noticed or reported to the Building Department. Notices of Violation have started getting sent out and will continue to. A few new violations were added to the drafted list during the meeting. Enforcement will be ongoing throughout the summer for sign violations within the Historic District.

2. Demolition by Neglect:

Mr. Gilpin brought up that certain architectural detail elements of historic buildings on Block Island are being neglected from the standpoint of maintenance. He noted that it would be a shame to lose these very important resources of our Historic District. Mr. Gilpin will draft a list of specific properties and/or aspects of specific buildings that are of concern. The hope is that The Commission would be able to reach out to the building owners and offer some pro-active advice, consultation and direction to maintain these structures.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Gilpin made a motion, seconded by Ms. McQueeny to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

6 ayes (Penn, Ball, Gilpin, McQueeny, Riordan, Vaillancourt)
1 Absent (Ballard)

0 Nays

